General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 September 2008

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 118

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/62/L.48)*]

62/272. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, contained in General Assembly resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006, which called for, inter alia, an examination in two years of progress made in the implementation of the Strategy and for consideration to be given to updating it to respond to changes, as provided for in paragraph 3 (*b*) of that resolution,

Recalling the pivotal role of the General Assembly in following up the implementation and the updating of the Strategy,

Renewing its unwavering commitment to strengthen international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Recognizing that international cooperation and any measures undertaken by Member States to prevent and combat terrorism must fully comply with their obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international conventions and protocols, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Convinced that the General Assembly is the competent organ with universal membership to address the issue of international terrorism,

Mindful of the need to enhance the role of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, within their mandates, in the implementation of the Strategy,

Stressing that the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force shall carry out its activities within the framework of its mandate, with policy guidance offered by Member States through interaction with the General Assembly on a regular basis,

Recognizing the importance of institutionalizing the Task Force within the Secretariat,

1. *Reiterates its strong condemnation* of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security;

2. *Reaffirms* the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars, which constitute an ongoing effort, and calls upon Member States, the United Nations and other appropriate international, regional and subregional

organizations to step up their efforts to implement the Strategy in an integrated manner and in all its aspects;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy";[1]

4. *Also takes note* of the measures that Member States as well as appropriate international, regional and subregional organizations have adopted within the framework of the Strategy, as presented at the first biennial review of the Strategy, on 4 and 5 September 2008, all of which strengthen cooperation to fight terrorism, in particular through the exchange of best practices;

5. *Reaffirms* the primary responsibility of Member States to implement the Strategy while further recognizing the need to enhance the important role the United Nations plays, in coordination with other international, regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, in facilitating coherence in the implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional and global levels and in providing assistance, especially in the area of capacity-building;

6. *Encourages* non-governmental organizations and civil society to engage, as appropriate, on how to enhance efforts to implement the Strategy, including through interaction with Member States and the United Nations system;

7. *Calls upon* the United Nations entities involved in supporting counter-terrorism efforts to continue to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism;

8. *Calls upon* States that have not done so to consider becoming parties in a timely manner to the existing international conventions and protocols against terrorism, and upon all States to make every effort to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, and recalls the commitments of Member States with regard to the implementation of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relating to international terrorism;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the continued contribution of United Nations entities and subsidiary bodies of the Security Council to the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force;

10. *Reaffirms* the need to enhance international cooperation in countering terrorism, and in this regard recalls the role of the United Nations system in promoting international cooperation and capacity-building as one of the elements of the Strategy;

11. *Urges* the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to carry out the institutionalization of the Task Force, in accordance with resolution 60/288, in order to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system;

12. *Decides* to interact with the Task Force on a regular basis, in order to receive briefings and reports on its current and future work, assess the work being undertaken on the Strategy implementation efforts, including the work of the Task Force, and to offer policy guidance;

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[1] A/62/898.

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on progress made in the implementation of the Strategy, which could contain suggestions for its future implementation by the United Nations system, as well as in the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy" in order to undertake in two years an examination of the report of the Secretary-General requested in paragraph 13 above, as well as the implementation of the Strategy on the part of Member States and to consider updating the Strategy to respond to changes.

120th plenary meeting
5 September 2008

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 September 2008

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 34

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/62/406/Add.1)]

62/273. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2006 (XIX) of 18 February 1965 and all other relevant resolutions,

Recalling in particular its resolutions 61/267 A of 16 May 2007 and 61/267 B and 61/291 of 24 July 2007,

Affirming that the efforts of the United Nations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, including through its peacekeeping operations, are indispensable,

Convinced of the need for the United Nations to continue to improve its capabilities in the field of peacekeeping and to enhance the effective and efficient deployment of its peacekeeping operations,

Considering the contribution that all States Members of the United Nations make to peacekeeping,

Noting the widespread interest in contributing to the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations expressed by Member States, in particular troop-contributing countries,

Bearing in mind the continuous necessity of preserving the efficiency and strengthening the effectiveness of the work of the Special Committee,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group;[1]

2. *Endorses* the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee, contained in paragraphs 15 to 199 of its report;

3. *Urges* Member States, the Secretariat and relevant organs of the United Nations to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee;

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/62/19).

4. *Reiterates* that those Member States that become personnel contributors to the United Nations peacekeeping operations in years to come or participate in the future in the Special Committee for three consecutive years as observers shall, upon request in writing to the Chairman of the Special Committee, become members at the following session of the Special Committee;

5. *Decides* that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, shall continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects and shall review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in this field;

6. *Requests* the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session;

7. *Decides* to include in the draft agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects".

121st plenary meeting
11 September 2008

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 September 2008

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 56

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/62/L.41/Rev.1 and Add.1)*]

62/274. Strengthening transparency in industries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Reaffirming the Accra Accord, the outcome of the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Accra from 20 to 25 April 2008,[2]

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[3] which reaffirms that corruption is no longer a local matter but a transnational phenomenon that affects all societies and economies, making international cooperation to prevent and control it essential,

Also recalling its resolution 1803 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, in which it declared that the right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources must be exercised in the interest of their national development and of the well-being of the people of the State concerned,

Reaffirming that every State has and shall freely exercise full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activities,

Taking note of all relevant voluntary initiatives, including the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, aimed at improving transparency in the extractive industries,

Convinced that rule-based and predictable trade and financial systems are essential to promote transparency in trade and financial industries and combat corruption in commercial and financial transactions in all countries,

1. *Emphasizes* that transparency and accountability are objectives that should be embraced and promoted by all Member States, regardless of their size, level of development or resource endowment;

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] TD/442 and Corr.1, sect. II.

[3] Resolution 58/4, annex.

2. *Reaffirms*, as stated in the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[3] the need to combat corruption and enhance transparency, in accordance with the fundamental principles of domestic law, and to take such measures as may be necessary to enhance transparency in public administration, including with regard to organization, functioning and decision-making processes, where appropriate;

3. *Encourages* the international community to strengthen, as appropriate, upon request, the capacity of States endowed with natural resources, especially those emerging from conflict situations, to negotiate mutually satisfactory, transparent and equitable contractual terms for the use, extraction and processing of their natural resources;

4. *Notes* the efforts of countries that are participating in all relevant voluntary initiatives to improve transparency and accountability in industries, including in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in the extractive sector, and to share their experience with interested Member States;

5. *Reaffirms* its commitment to governance, equity and transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems, as well as its commitment to open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial systems;

6. *Encourages* business and industry, in particular transnational corporations, to establish worldwide corporate policies on sustainable development, arrange for environmentally sound technologies to be available to affiliates owned substantially by their parent company in developing countries without extra external charges and to modify procedures in order to reflect local ecological conditions and share experiences with local authorities, national Governments and international organizations;

7. *Urges* the private sector, including corporations engaged in the extractive industries, to ensure transparency and verifiable processes, while adhering to and promoting the principles of honesty, transparency and accountability in order to maximize the contribution of the private sector to the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development.

121st plenary meeting
11 September 2008

General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 October 2008

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 64 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/62/L.47 and Add.1)*]

62/275. Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa[1] and its resolutions 53/92 of 7 December 1998, 54/234 of 22 December 1999, 55/217 of 21 December 2000, 56/37 of 4 December 2001, 57/296 of 20 December 2002, 57/337 of 3 July 2003, 58/235 of 23 December 2003, 59/255 of 23 December 2004, 60/223 of 23 December 2005 and 61/230 of 22 December 2006, as well as its resolutions 62/179 of 19 December 2007 on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and 59/213 of 20 December 2004 on cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union,

Recalling also, in this context, Security Council resolutions 1809 (2008) of 16 April 2008 on peace and security in Africa, 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008 on women and peace and security, 1366 (2001) of 30 August 2001 on the role of the Council in the prevention of armed conflicts, 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005 on children and armed conflict, 1625 (2005) of 14 September 2005 on strengthening the effectiveness of the Council's role in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa, and 1631 (2005) of 17 October 2005 on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] through which world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to addressing the special needs of Africa,

Recognizing that development, peace, security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 45* (A/56/45).

[2] See resolution 60/1.

Recalling the creation by the Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 2002/1 of 15 July 2002, of ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict,

Stressing that the responsibility for peace and security in Africa, including the capacity to address the root causes of conflict and to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner, lies primarily with African countries, while recognizing the need for support from the international community,

Recognizing, in particular, the importance of strengthening the capacity of the African Union and subregional organizations to address the causes of conflict in Africa,

Noting that despite the positive trends and advances in obtaining durable peace in Africa, the conditions required for sustainable development have yet to be consolidated throughout the continent and that there is therefore an urgent need to develop African human and institutional capacities, particularly in countries emerging from conflict,

Noting also that conflict prevention and the consolidation of peace would benefit from the coordinated, sustained and integrated efforts of the United Nations system and Member States, and regional and subregional organizations, as well as international and regional financial institutions,

Reaffirming the need to strengthen the synergy between Africa's economic and social development programmes and its peace and security agenda,

Reaffirming also the importance of the Peacebuilding Commission as a dedicated mechanism to address, in an integrated manner, the special needs of countries emerging from conflict towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction and to assist them in laying the foundation for peace and sustainable development,

Underlining the need to address the negative implications of the illegal exploitation of natural resources in all its aspects for peace, security and development in Africa, and underlining also the fact that the illicit trade in natural resources is a matter of serious international concern, which can be directly linked to the fuelling of armed conflicts and the illicit trade in and proliferation of arms, especially small arms and light weapons,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report of the Secretary-General[3] on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[4] and welcomes recent institutional developments in addressing such causes and other efforts in conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding undertaken by African countries, African regional organizations and the United Nations system;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made, in particular by the African Union and the subregional organizations, in the prevention, management and resolution of conflict and in post-conflict peacebuilding in a number of African countries, and calls for intensified efforts and a coordinated approach between national Governments, the African Union, subregional organizations, the United Nations system and partners with a view to achieving further progress towards the goal of a conflict-free Africa;

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[3] A/62/204.

[4] A/52/871-S/1998/318.

3. *Recognizes* that international and regional efforts to prevent conflict and consolidate peace in Africa should be channelled towards the sustainable development of Africa and human and institutional capacity-building of African countries and organizations, particularly in priority areas identified at the continental level;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue to mainstream the special needs of Africa in all its normative and operational activities;

5. *Welcomes* efforts to enhance practical cooperation, within the framework of an effective partnership, between the United Nations and the African Union in the realm of conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding in Africa, and in this context urges the United Nations system and the international community to increase, coordinate and sustain their efforts aimed at assisting African countries in addressing the full range of causes of conflict in Africa;

6. *Recalls* the signing of the declaration on enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, in Addis Ababa, on 16 November 2006, [5] and the ongoing efforts in this regard, and underlines the importance of the implementation of the ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, mainly focusing on peace and security, in particular the operationalization of the African Standby Force, urges all stakeholders to support the full implementation of the ten-year programme for the African Union, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his next annual report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his 1998 report,[4] a detailed account of the progress achieved in this regard;

7. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the African Union and the subregional organizations to strengthen their peacekeeping capacity and to take the lead in peacekeeping operations in the continent, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and in close coordination with the United Nations, through the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, as well as ongoing efforts to develop a continental early warning system, response capacity, such as the African Standby Force, and enhanced mediation capacity, including through the Panel of the Wise;

8. *Notes with appreciation* the establishment of the multidisciplinary African Union Peacekeeping Support Team within the Department for Peacekeeping Operations at the Secretariat, and reaffirms the need for the United Nations and other development partners to increase their support for the African Union, including through existing forums for cooperation with Africa, in order to enhance its capacity and effectiveness in the planning, deployment and management of peacekeeping operations, including in the advanced training of African peacekeepers, and in peacebuilding activities, and encourages the donor community to provide further support to the African Union, including through the replenishment of its Peace Fund;

9. *Calls for* a holistic and coordinated approach at the national, subregional, regional and international levels to improve the effectiveness of mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding efforts in Africa, and reaffirms the need for

[5] A/61/630, annex.

observing such an approach in the design and implementation of all programmes within the context of the ten-year capacity-building programme;

10. *Stresses* the critical importance of a regional approach to conflict prevention, in particular with respect to cross-border issues such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, the prevention of illegal exploitation of natural resources and trafficking in high-value commodities and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and in this regard emphasizes the central role of the African Union and the subregional organizations in addressing such issues;

11. *Reaffirms* its commitment to address the special needs of Africa, where some progress can be noted but where some countries remain off track in meeting the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, in order to enable it to enter the mainstream of the world economy, and to strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership for Africa's Development [6] by providing coherent support for the programmes drawn up by African leaders within that framework, including by mobilizing internal and external financial resources and facilitating approval of such programmes by the multilateral financial institutions;

12. *Welcomes* the adoption of Security Council resolution 1809 (2008) on peace and security in Africa;

13. *Notes with concern* that violence against women and children everywhere continues and often increases, even as armed conflicts draw to an end, urges further progress in the implementation of policies and guidelines relating to the protection of and assistance to women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations, and notes the adoption of Security Council resolution 1820 (2008) on women and peace and security;

14. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and Member States to support the African Union in its effort to effectively integrate training in international humanitarian law and international human rights law, with particular emphasis on the rights of women and children, in the training of civilian and military personnel of national standby contingents at both the operational and tactical levels, as set out in article 13 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union;[7]

15. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the African Union to ensure protection of the rights of women in conflict and post-conflict situations, recalls, in this regard, the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa[7] and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa[7] by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at their second and third ordinary sessions, held in Maputo in July 2003 and Addis Ababa in July 2004, and their entry into force, stresses the significance of those instruments for all countries in Africa in strengthening the role of women in peace and conflict prevention in the continent, and strongly urges the United Nations and all parties to redouble their efforts and support in this regard;

16. *Calls for* the enhancement of the role of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding consistent with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000);

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[6] A/57/304, annex.

[7] Available from www.africa-union.org.

17. *Notes with concern* the tragic plight of children in conflict situations in Africa, in particular the phenomenon of child soldiers, as well as other grave violations against children, and stresses the need for the protection of children in armed conflicts, post-conflict counselling, rehabilitation and education, with due regard to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council;

18. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the expert group meeting on "Youth in Africa: participation of youth as partners in peace and development in post-conflict countries", held in Namibia in November 2006,[8] and calls upon the United Nations system and Member States to adopt strategies to include youth as central stakeholders and key actors in the rehabilitation, reconciliation and rebuilding of war-torn communities and in contributing to sustainable development in their countries;

19. *Recognizes* the important role of the good offices of the Secretary-General in Africa, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue to use mediation as often as possible to help to solve conflicts peacefully, taking due consideration of the work performed by the African Union and the subregional organizations in that regard;

20. *Notes* the efforts of the Mediation Support Unit, newly established in the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in particular the establishment of a standby team of mediation experts who will be on call to assist in peacemaking efforts around the world;

21. *Invites* the United Nations and the donor community to increase efforts to support ongoing regional efforts to build African mediation and negotiation capacity;

22. *Welcomes* African-led initiatives to strengthen political, economic and corporate governance, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism, encourages even more African countries to join this process, and calls upon the United Nations system and Member States to assist African Member States and regional and subregional organizations in their efforts to enhance good governance, including the promotion of the rule of law and the holding of free and fair elections;

23. *Recognizes* the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in ensuring that national ownership of the peacebuilding process in countries emerging from conflict is observed and that nationally identified priorities are at the core of international and regional efforts in post-conflict peacebuilding in the countries under consideration, notes the important steps taken by the Commission in engaging with Sierra Leone, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic through integrated peacebuilding strategies, calls for sustained regional and international commitment to the implementation of these strategies and their design process, recalls the adoption of the Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework [9] and the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding for Burundi, [10] and calls for their implementation;

24. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and invites Member States to assist African countries emerging from conflict in their efforts to build national capacities of governance, including the rehabilitation of the security sector,

[8] Available from www.un.org/africa/osaa/reports.html.

[9] PBC/2/SLE/1.

[10] PBC/1/BDI/4, annex.

disarmament, demobilization and the reintegration of ex-combatants, provision for the safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees, the launch of income-generation activities, particularly for youth and women, and the delivery of basic public services;

25. *Stresses* the importance of effectively addressing challenges that continue to hamper the achievement of peace, stability and sustainable development on the continent, inter alia, the increased prevalence of infectious disease such as HIV/AIDS, the effects of global warming and climate change, the extremely high rates of youth unemployment, human trafficking, massive displacements of people, the illegal exploitation of natural resources, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, the emergence of terrorist networks and the increased activity of transnational organized crime, and in this regard encourages the United Nations system and Member States to assist African countries to effectively address these challenges;

26. *Also stresses* the importance of creating an environment conducive to national reconciliation and social and economic recovery in countries emerging from conflict;

27. *Encourages* African Governments to establish appropriate structures and policies to create an environment conducive to attracting direct foreign investment, calls upon African Member States and regional and subregional organizations to assist African countries emerging from conflict in devising national natural resources and public revenue management structures, and invites the international community to assist in that process by providing adequate financial and technical assistance, as well as by renewing its commitment to efforts aimed at combating the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of those countries;

28. *Welcomes* the various important initiatives of Africa's development partners in recent years, inter alia, the Africa Partnership Forum, the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, the China-Africa Partnership, the European Union-Africa Strategic Partnership, the Group of Eight-Africa Partnership, the Millennium Challenge Account, the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief of the President of the United States of America and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, and emphasizes, in this regard, the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa and the need for their effective implementation;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider the need to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the outcome of the review of his 1998 report;

30. *Decides* to continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report of the Secretary-General;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution.

121st plenary meeting
11 September 2008

General Assembly

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26 September 2008

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 121

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/62/952)*]

62/276. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of its work, including resolutions 46/77 of 12 December 1991, 47/233 of 17 August 1993, 48/264 of 29 July 1994, 51/241 of 31 July 1997, 52/163 of 15 December 1997, 55/14 of 3 November 2000, 55/285 of 7 September 2001, 56/509 of 8 July 2002, 57/300 of 20 December 2002, 57/301 of 13 March 2003, 58/126 of 19 December 2003, 58/316 of 1 July 2004, 59/313 of 12 September 2005, 60/286 of 8 September 2006 and 61/292 of 2 August 2007,

Stressing the importance of implementing resolutions on the revitalization of its work,

Recognizing the need to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly established by resolution 61/292;[1]

2. *Decides* to establish, at its sixty-third session, an ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the General Assembly, open to all Member States:

(*a*) To identify further ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, inter alia, by building on previous resolutions;

(*b*) To submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-third session.

122nd plenary meeting
15 September 2008

[1] A/62/952.

General Assembly

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7 October 2008

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 116

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/62/L.51)*]

62/277. System-wide coherence

The General Assembly,

Recalling the consensus 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Recalling also its consensus resolution 62/208 of 19 December 2007 on the triennial comprehensive policy review,

Commending the pragmatic, transparent, balanced and inclusive approach taken by the Co-Chairs of the consultative follow-up process by the General Assembly on system-wide coherence, the Permanent Representatives of Ireland and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations, to their work on behalf of the Assembly, which built upon the efforts of their distinguished predecessors, the Permanent Representatives of Barbados and Luxembourg to the United Nations, at the sixty-first session of the General Assembly,

Having considered the paper on "Institutional options to strengthen United Nations work on gender equality and the empowerment of women", which the Deputy Secretary-General provided to the President of the General Assembly on 23 July 2008 in response to a consensus request from Member States,

Looking forward to the independent evaluation foreseen in its resolution 62/208, which will help it to form a comprehensive view of the "Delivering as one" approach to the provision of development assistance through the United Nations system and, in the meantime, acknowledging the interim assessment of progress made and challenges remaining in this regard, as contained in the "Maputo Declaration",[2] issued in May 2008 by a number of least developed and middle income countries which have voluntarily embraced this approach,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence[3] and the report of the Secretary-General containing his comments thereon;[4]

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] See A/63/85-E/2008/83.

[3] See A/61/583.

[4] A/61/836.

2. *Welcomes* the report presented by the Co-Chairs of the consultative follow-up process by the General Assembly on system-wide coherence, the Permanent Representatives of Ireland and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations, to the President of the General Assembly on 21 July 2008,[5] the conclusions and recommendations of which are contained in the annex to the present resolution;

3. *Decides*, accordingly, that the continuing and deepening intergovernmental work of the General Assembly on system-wide coherence will focus exclusively and in an integrated manner on "Delivering as one" at country and regional levels, harmonization of business practices, funding, governance, and gender equality and the empowerment of women;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, drawing on the resources and expertise of the United Nations system and building on the outcome of its triennial comprehensive policy review, to provide to Member States substantive papers on the issues of funding and governance, as those issues arise in the context of system-wide coherence, with a view to facilitating substantive action by the General Assembly during the sixty-third session;

5. *Welcomes*, in this overall context, the paper on "Institutional options to strengthen United Nations work on gender equality and the empowerment of women", which the Deputy Secretary-General provided to the President of the General Assembly on 23 July 2008, and requests the Secretary-General to provide a further, detailed modalities paper in respect of the options set out in the Deputy Secretary-General's paper, covering funding, governance structure, staffing, specific functions, relationship with the Commission on the Status of Women and other relevant bodies and, having regard to the totality of views expressed by Member States in informal plenary consultations on 8 September 2008, focusing in particular on the "composite entity" option with a view to facilitating substantive action by the General Assembly during the sixty-third session;

6. *Resolves*, at the conclusion of its entire process on system-wide coherence, to review and take stock of all of its prior actions and deliberations in a single resolution or decision.

122nd plenary meeting
15 September 2008

Annex

Conclusions and recommendations of the Co-Chairs of the consultative follow-up process by the General Assembly on system-wide coherence, the Permanent Representatives of Ireland and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations

1. As the Co-Chairs for system-wide coherence at the sixty-second session of the General Assembly we have sought to conduct an open, transparent, balanced and inclusive process of consultations among the entire membership. Our aim has been to present a report that, by and large, will sit well with all parts of the Assembly in that all groupings of States should be able to feel that the report addresses seriously

[5] See A/63/362.

many of their principal priorities and concerns. In this way we have sought to facilitate a balanced and fair compromise outcome to the deliberations of the Assembly during the sixty-second session.

2. The following conclusions and recommendations flow from the present report overall, but are perhaps best seen in tandem with the introductory section. The landmark 2006 report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence,[5] while a very important contribution to the work of the General Assembly to increase coherence across the United Nations system, did not launch that work. The Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit as well as consensus positions of the Assembly, not least the triennial comprehensive policy reviews, constitute much of the bedrock for building further progress in this area.

3. Since the outset of the sixty-second session, the broad membership has signalled that the continuing efforts on system-wide coherence should focus on four priority areas, namely (*a*) the United Nations delivering as one at the country level with the related aspect of harmonization of business practices; (*b*) funding; (*c*) governance; and (*d*) gender equality and the empowerment of women.

4. The present report should be taken together with the paper on gender (in its institutional dimension) which is being provided by the Secretary-General to Member States in response to their request of 16 June 2008.[6]

5. As for "Delivering as one", we have sought to provide the Member States with an accurate and up-to-date picture of the process as it is actually developing on the ground in upwards of thirty developing countries and not simply as it is perceived from afar. We have been helped in this by our on-the-ground consultations with Heads of State and Government, Cabinet ministers, parliamentarians, United Nations country teams, development partners and others in some eight developing countries. We have also conferred at length with United Nations agency heads in New York, Geneva, Rome, Paris and Vienna. We have taken careful note of the "Maputo Declaration" issued in May 2008 by pilot and other developing countries, in which they formally request the Assembly to encourage them in the "Delivering as one" approach that they have voluntarily embraced in partnership with the United Nations system.

6. Our conclusion is that the experience of "Delivering as one" to date (that is to say, halfway through its second year) at the country level is clearly and preponderantly positive, even if a number of challenges remain to be fully addressed in regard to each of the "four ones". We note that this view is shared by the large and growing number of developing countries which are applying the "Delivering as one" approach and proactively moving towards implementing the consensus resolution on the triennial comprehensive policy review. They state that important principles are in fact being observed in practice, including national ownership and leadership and "no one size fits all". Through the "Delivering as one" approach United Nations country team activities are being aligned to an unprecedented degree with the national development strategies and policies of the developing countries concerned. Assistance is being delivered with greater effectiveness, savings are being realized and greater reductions in transaction costs are clearly in prospect.

7. At the same time the picture that emerges at present is interim in nature since the independent evaluation of "Delivering as one", as foreseen by the 2007 triennial

[6] The paper on "Institutional options to strengthen United Nations work on gender equality and the empowerment of women" was provided on 23 July 2008.

comprehensive policy review, will come only towards the end of 2009 and, in any event, concrete development outputs arising from a new way of doing business take longer than eighteen months to emerge definitively.

8. It seems to us clear that the Assembly ought to be in a position during the sixty-second session to give a positive political impetus to "Delivering as one", thereby giving encouragement to those many developing countries which have voluntarily embraced this approach, and to enjoin the United Nations development system to continue to pursue it. Moving forward, it will be essential to safeguard the principles underlying "Delivering as one", in particular that of enhancing national ownership and leadership in the design and implementation of United Nations development system support programmes at the country level. The international community should by the same token be encouraged to continue to respond positively through additional commitments where the combination of strong national leadership and an empowered United Nations country team, delivering as one, together generate a better-aligned and more effective United Nations programme of support.

9. For the most part, the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the system, at the leadership level, have gradually become increasingly engaged with and supportive of the "Delivering as one" approach. The atmosphere in which they collaborate within the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General has been transformed for the better as they and their collaborators continue consideration of the implications of the "four ones" (one programme, one budgetary framework and fund, one leader and one office) at the country level. At the same time, it is to be recommended that headquarters levels across the system empower the respective country-level agency representatives with much greater latitude, flexibility and encouragement to advance a more coherent and therefore more effective delivery of United Nations system assistance on the ground in line with the "Delivering as one" approach.

10. In all of this, the particular situations affecting middle-income countries should receive adequate attention.

11. Turning to the issue of funding in the context of system-wide coherence, there clearly need to be greater flows of and greater predictability in funding. In general, overall commitments made solemnly and repeatedly need to be implemented more faithfully. Commendation is due to those development partners which have made concrete contributions to advancing the "Delivering as one" approach at the country level in response to the strategies, priorities, policies and plans of the developing countries concerned. At the same time, support for "Delivering as one" at the country level must not be at the expense of core funding to agencies through their headquarters. Overall, there needs to be a significantly improved balance between core and non-core funding. Funds, programmes and specialized agencies should be invited, if necessary through changes in statute, rules and/or regulations, to give effect to the consensus view in the General Assembly that savings realized at the country level ought to be ploughed back into programmatic development work in the countries where the savings are realized. In this and in other ways, "Delivering as one" must deliver more.

12. As for intergovernmental governance at the central level, we have detected no palpable appetite in the General Assembly for establishing new intergovernmental bodies, including the putative Sustainable Development Board which was recommended by the High-level Panel. At the same time the new realities emerging

from a growing number of developing countries applying the "Delivering as one" approach at the country level will need to be accommodated and addressed more effectively by the existing boards and not least by the Economic and Social Council. In the light of the ongoing and emerging nature of the "Delivering as one" approach, it may be necessary to continue and to deepen discussion of these issues during the sixty-third session.

13. If, in that context, the Assembly focuses first on the functions that need to be discharged centrally and intergovernmentally in the "Delivering as one" approach, it will perhaps then be easier to address the question of which institutions, as these continue to adapt, are best placed to discharge the functions in question.

14. We also believe that the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions ought to be consistently encouraged to develop, in a pragmatic manner, a far greater degree of cooperation and collaboration in the context described in the present report. Some progress is already being made. This needs to be developed and enlarged.

15. As for gender equality and the empowerment of women, we recommend that the Assembly be invited to address the matter, including in the light of the Secretary-General's paper on the institutional dimension,[6] in open, informal plenary consultations at an early opportunity, perhaps early in September. During the sixty-second session the Member States have advanced together, by agreement, in their consideration of the issue of gender equality and women's empowerment. With assistance from the Secretary-General, they have identified critical gaps in the way the system assists Member States in implementing globally agreed mandates and their own internationally made commitments in this area. With further open and genuine discussion the Assembly may be in a position, before the conclusion of its sixty-second session, to signal in general terms, but nevertheless clearly, which institutional option or combination of options, perhaps with adjustments, it wishes to pursue. Detailed working through of such an agreed approach could then be taken up and completed at the sixty-third session. We have the very strong impression that no Government, whether for substantive or "tactical" reasons, would wish to stand in the way of a consensus to advance the issue of gender equality and the empowerment of women through a measured but significant step forward.

16. We believe that in the light of the present report and the Secretary-General's options paper on gender equality and the empowerment of women (in its institutional aspect)[6] Member States ought to be equipped for decision-making during the sixty-second session. With these substantive elements in hand, Member States are also better placed to weigh the format of the decision-making of the Assembly.

17. In the first instance, and on the basis of the foregoing report and these conclusions, Member States may, during the sixty-second session, wish to address, perhaps in a package decision, the four core priority areas listed in paragraph 3 above, which they have highlighted throughout.

18. The same decision could signal that henceforth, in the context of intergovernmental discussion on system-wide coherence, the Assembly will focus exclusively on these priority areas and will exclude from this context the issues of environment/environmental governance, humanitarian assistance and human rights, in line with the considerations set out in the present report.

General Assembly

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26 September 2008

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 116

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/62/L.52)*]

62/278. Mandate review

The General Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 163 (*b*) of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1] regarding mandate review,

Welcoming the last review process, initiated in 2007 by the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, in a letter dated 6 November 2007, as well as the previous processes conducted during the sixtieth and sixty-first sessions,

Having considered the final report of the Co-Chairs of the mandate review process during the sixty-second session, dated 8 August 2008,

1. *Takes note* of the final report of the Co-Chairs of the mandate review process during the sixty-second session, including on the review of the thematic clusters relating to the effective coordination of humanitarian assistance and the development of Africa;

2. *Recognizes* the usefulness of the existing online mandate registry, and decides to maintain it as an accessible working tool for Member States and to revert to the issue in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011;

3. *Notes* that one of the important findings of the process is the difficulty of identifying resources associated with one particular mandate, which limited the potential of the review process to fulfil its objective of strengthening and updating the programme of work of the Organization and improving the allocation of resources for the effective implementation of mandates;

4. *Calls upon* its relevant bodies and subsidiary organs, within their respective mandates and in accordance with the established regulations and rules governing programme planning, to continue improving the implementation of mandates and addressing the continuing validity of legislative decisions and the effective coordination among units of the Secretariat and other structures of the United Nations system.

122nd plenary meeting
15 September 2008

[1] See resolution 60/1.